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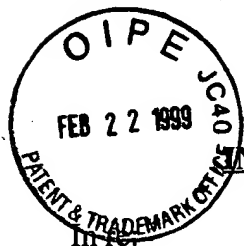
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW

BY:

*David L. Marks*

DATE:

*2/19/99*



PATENT

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

|                         |                                     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Reissue Application No. | : Group Art Unit: 3613              |
| 08/999,730              | :                                   |
| Filed:                  | : December 24, 1997                 |
| Patent No.:             | : 5,509,546                         |
| Granted:                | : April 23, 1996                    |
| Patentee:               | : Robert H. Staat                   |
| Title:                  | : Magnetically-Actuated Coupler For |
| Model Railroad Cars     | : Attorney Docket                   |
|                         | : No. 7311-24RE                     |

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 21, 1998 for the above-referenced reissue patent application.

In the Action, the Examiner stated that the application was in condition for allowance except for formal matters, namely the submission of the original patent or an affidavit or declaration as to the loss or inaccessibility of the original patent. Claims 2-9 stand allowed and prosecution on the merits in this case has been closed.

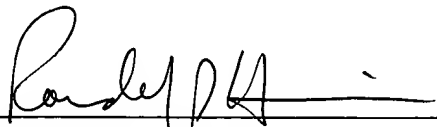
In response, enclosed is a Declaration as to Loss of Letters Patent which states that the original U.S. Letters Patent No. 5,509,546 cannot be located, and has been either lost or

destroyed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the reissue application can now be allowed.

If the Examiner believes any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this case in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

BY:   
**RANDOLPH J. HUIS**  
registration No. 34,626  
**PANITCH SCHWARZE JACOBS & NADEL, P.C.**  
One Commerce Square  
2005 Market Street, 22nd Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-7086  
Telephone: (215) 567-2020  
Facsimile: (215) 567-2991  
E-Mail: [rjh@psjn.com](mailto:rjh@psjn.com)

RJH/dcm